



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

News Release

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MAN SENTENCED TO 25 YEARS IN PRISON FOR SCHEME TO ARM COLOMBIAN TERROR GROUP WITH 4,000 GRENADES AND 2,000 FIREARMS

TAMPA, FLA. – U.S. District Judge James D. Whittemore late yesterday sentenced Carlos E. Gamarra-Murillo to 25 years imprisonment and three years supervised release for engaging in the business of brokering and exporting defense articles without a license and providing material support to a foreign terrorist organization. Gamarra-Murillo entered a plea of guilty to both charges on February 11, 2005, and was adjudicated guilty on March 11, 2005.

According to court documents, the defendant, Carlos Enrique Gamarra-Murillo, is 54 years old and was born in Socorro (Sder.), Republic of Colombia, on November 20, 1950. He holds a B1/B2 United States Visa (visitor) that expired on September 6, 2004.

On or about March 11, 2003, the defendant met with a confidential source (CI) working for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in Baranquilla, Colombia. He indicated that he was interested in purchasing numerous firearms and other weapons and bringing them into Colombia for a client.

From that date through March 2004, the defendant continued the negotiations for the purchase of numerous weapons. He was told that a payment of \$100,000 must first be received by the sellers before the weapons could be transported.

On April 1, 2004, the defendant arrived in Tampa and met with the CI and undercover ICE agents to conduct the final negotiations for the arms transaction. During this meeting, the defendant informed the agents that the final purchase price for all the weapons he required would be \$3,996,000.00 and that he was buying:

60 M-60 machine guns	60 multiple grenade launchers
600 M-16A1 assault rifles	600 Galil 7.62mm assault rifles
100 Galil 5.56mm assault rifles	500 AK-47 assault rifles
150 Beretta 9mm handguns	2,000 40mm grenades
2,000 60mm grenades	

The arms were to be delivered to a clandestine airstrip in western Venezuela and the defendant provided the agents with the global positioning coordinates for the airstrip and pointed out the location on a chart. The

defendant also provided the radio frequencies that were to be used to coordinate the landing of the aircraft in Venezuela. The defendant told the agents that, once the aircraft landed in Venezuela with the weapons, payment would be made at the airstrip, 40 percent in U.S. currency and 60 percent in cocaine.

The undercover ICE agents informed the defendant that there could be no export licenses issued for this shipment and that all the participants could go to jail if they were caught. The defendant acknowledged this. The defendant produced approximately \$92,000 in U.S. currency that he had on his person and stated that this was to be payment to transport the weapons from the United States to Venezuela.

The defendant informed the agents that factions of the Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia (FARC) would be waiting at the airstrip to take custody of the arms and to provide the payment for the arms. The defendant agreed that the weapons would be delivered to the FARC on or about April 9, 2004. The FARC is a U.S.-designated foreign terrorist organization in Colombia.

During the negotiations on April 1, 2004, the defendant also indicated that he was interested in negotiating for Stinger missiles and Russian-made surface-to-air missiles in a future transaction. The defendant was then arrested by ICE agents and taken into custody.

The case was investigated by Special Agents of the Tampa office of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Department of Homeland Security. The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Donald L. Hansen, Special Prosecutions Section, Tampa Division, Middle District of Florida.

#ICE#

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.